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## CIA Didn't 'Blow Whistle' On Watergate

*Associated Press*

WILLIAMSBURG, Va.—CIA Director William E. Colby said yesterday that his agency could have gone to prosecutors with information about Watergate earlier than it did, but that "we didn't fall all over ourselves rushing to the policemen."

Colby was replying to an allegation by Seymour M. Hersch, the New York Times reporter who exposed some of the CIA's illegal domestic spying. The exchange took place during a panel discussion at the Associated Press Managing Editors' 42d annual meeting.

Hersch said the CIA "could have blown the whistle at any time" about Watergate. "I think Sy is right," Colby said.

Colby said the concern in the CIA around the time of the June 17, 1972, Watergate break-in was that the agency's indirect involvement might be sensationalized.

Hersh noted that two days after the break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters, CIA officials discussed the fact that months earlier former White House aide John D. Ehrlichman had asked the CIA to assist E. Howard Hunt Jr.

That assistance, in the form of a wig and other materials, was used by Hunt in connection with the 1971 break-in at the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

Hersch said that CIA officials had been aware two days after the Watergate break-in that Hunt had been involved in it. Hunt was indicted Sept. 15, 1972, in connection with the Watergate affair.